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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT
104-805 }

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE JUNE 25,
1996, TERRORIST BOMBING IN DHAHRAN,
SAUDI ARABIA

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

H. CON. RES. 200

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]



SEPTEMBER 17, 1996.—Ordered to be printed

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HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE JUNE 25, 1996, TERRORIST
BOMBING IN DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA

SEPTEMBER 17, 1996.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. SPENCE, from the Committee on National Security, submitted
the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 200]

The Committee on National Security, to whom was referred the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 200) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the concurrent resolution be agreed to.

The amendments are as follows:

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

That Congress hereby—

(1) recognizes the 19 members of the Armed Forces who died in the terrorist truck bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on June 25, 1996, and honors them for their service and sacrifice;

(2) calls upon the Nation to hold fast the memory of those who died;

(3) extends its sympathies to the families of those who died; and

(4) assures the members of the Armed Forces serving anywhere in the world that their well-being and interests will at all times be given the highest priority.

Amend the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas on June 25, 1996, a terrorist truck bomb outside a military housing compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killed 19 members of the Armed Forces and wounded hundreds of others;

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces killed and wounded in the bombing were defending the national security interests of the United States;

Whereas the defense of United States national interests continues to require the forward deployment of members of the Armed Forces to other countries;

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces are called upon to perform duties that place their lives at risk from terrorist elements hostile to the United States;

Whereas global terrorism has demonstrated no respect for the historic rules of war, no reluctance to strike against innocent and defenseless individuals, and a willingness to engage in tactics against which conventional defenses are difficult;

Whereas it is the duty of the President and the military chain of command to take necessary steps to keep members of the Armed Forces protected and as safe as the nature of their mission permits;

Whereas the people of the United States stand with those who have volunteered to serve their country and grieve at the loss of those who, to quote Lincoln, "have given their last full measure of devotion" to the security and well-being of the United States;

Whereas those members of the Armed Forces serving in Saudi Arabia and around the world demonstrate valor and faith in the American way of life that reflects honorably not only on themselves but upon the country that they represent; and

Whereas the military personnel who lost their lives on June 25, 1996, in the bombing in Dhahran died in the honorable service of their Nation and exemplified all that is best and most virtuous in the American people: Now, thereof, be it

Amend the title so as to read:

A concurrent resolution honoring the victims of the June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

On June 25, 1996, a terrorist truck bomb exploded outside the Khobar Towers housing facility in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 American servicemen and wounding some 200 others. The victims of this terrorist act were defending the security interests of the United States by enforcing Operation Southern Watch, the "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq.

This attack demonstrated that global terrorism directed against Americans remains a serious threat particularly for United States military personnel due to the nature of their mission and high profile associated with military activities of the United States. While the perpetrators of the attack have yet to be identified, the Department of Defense continues its investigation into the incident.

House Concurrent Resolution 200 would recognize the importance of the United States mission in Saudi Arabia, the threat posed by global terrorism and honor the service and sacrifice of those who died or were wounded in the bombing. It would further extend the sympathies of Congress to the families of those who died and assure the members of the armed forces serving anywhere in the world that their well being and interests will at all times be given the highest priority.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

House Concurrent Resolution 200 was introduced on July 24, 1996. The measure was referred to the Committee on National Security.

Although the committee did not hold any hearings specifically on House Concurrent Resolution 200, the committee has held hearings in the 104th Congress concerning the military situation in Iraq. In addition, the committee staff has conducted an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers housing facility in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

On September 12, 1996, the Committee on National Security met to consider House Concurrent Resolution 200. The committee agreed to an amendment in the nature of a substitute that would make miscellaneous drafting and stylistic changes to the resolution as introduced. The resolution was ordered favorably reported to the House by a unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE POSITION

On September 12, 1996, the Committee on National Security, a quorum being present, approved House Concurrent Resolution 200, as amended, by a unanimous voice vote.

FISCAL DATA

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee attempted to ascertain annual outlays resulting from the resolution during fiscal year 1997 and the four following fiscal years. The results of such efforts are reflected in the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, which is included in this report pursuant to clause 2(1)(3)(C) of House Rule XI.

Congressional Budget Office estimate

In compliance with clause 2(1)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office and submitted pursuant to section 403(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is as follows:

Congressional Budget Office cost estimate

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 16, 1996.

Hon. FLOYD SPENCE,
Chairman, Committee on National Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H. Con. Res. 200, as ordered reported by the House Committee on National Security on September 12, 1996. The resolution would honor the victims of the terrorist bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on June 25, 1996. CBO estimates that the resolution would have no impact on the budgets of federal, state, or local governments.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Kent Christensen.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL, *Director.*

Committee cost estimate

Pursuant to clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee generally concurs with the estimate as contained in the report of the Congressional Budget Office.

Inflation-impact statement

Pursuant to clause 2(1)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee concludes that the resolution would have no significant inflationary impact.

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

With respect to clause 2(l)(3)(A) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this legislation results from hearings and other oversight activities conducted by the committee pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule X.

With respect to clause 2(l)(3)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this legislation does not include any new spending or credit authority, nor does it provide for any increase or decrease in tax revenues or expenditures. The fiscal features of this legislation are addressed in the estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

With respect to clause 2(l)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee has not received a report from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight pertaining to the subject matter of House Concurrent Resolution 200.

STATEMENT OF FEDERAL MANDATES

Pursuant to section 423 of Public Law 104–4, this legislation contains no federal mandates with respect to state, local, and tribal governments, nor with respect to the private sector. Similarly, the resolution would provide no unfunded federal intergovernmental mandates.

ROLLCALL VOTES

With respect to clause 2(l)(2)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, no rollcall votes were taken with respect to the committee's consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 200.

The committee ordered House Concurrent Resolution 200 reported to the House with a favorable recommendation by a unanimous voice vote, a quorum being present.

